

TITLE 92 – NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
CHAPTER 22 – REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE MASTER TEACHER PROGRAM

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001 General Provisions.

001.01 Purposes. The purpose of the master teacher program is to build a group of recognized teachers of high achievement in the teaching profession. The Department shall administer the program.

001.02 Regulated Regulations. Throughout this chapter reference is made to other Department regulations relating to teachers, administrators, and special services counselors. Regulations for the issuance of certificates to teach, administer, and counsel in Nebraska schools are contained in TITLE 92, NEBRASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE (NAC), CHAPTER 21. 92 NAC 24 contains the regulations for certificate endorsements. Copies of these rules are available from the Department.

002 Definitions. The following definitions apply to this chapter:

002.01 Commissioner shall mean the Nebraska State Commissioner of Education.

002.02 Credentialing organization shall mean a national nonprofit organization:

002.02A approved by the Department,

002.02B the purpose of which is to establish high and rigorous standards in a broad range of educational areas for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do, and

002.02C which issues credentials to teachers who demonstrate that they meet those standards.

002.03 Department shall mean the Nebraska Department of Education, which is comprised of the State Board of Education and the Commissioner.

002.04 Educational Areas shall mean an area of specialization indicated on a certificate issued pursuant to endorsement requirements in 92 NAC 24.

002.05 Master Teacher Status shall mean a title granted to any applicant who submits an application to the Department for recognition based on successful completion of the assessment process from an approved credentialing organization.

002.06 Program shall mean the Master Teacher Program.

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002.07 Regular Certificate shall mean an initial, standard or professional certificate or a comparable and equivalent certificate.

002.08 Teacher shall mean a person who holds a valid certificate to teach in Nebraska issued by the Commissioner, who has been employed as a teacher for at least three (3) years in a public or private school accredited or approved by the Department, and who continues to be employed as a teacher in such a school.

003 Credentialing Organization Approval.

003.01 Credentialing organization(s) will be considered for approval by the Department if they meet the following requirements:

003.01A their purpose is to establish high and rigorous standards in a broad range of educational areas for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do;

003.01B they issue credentials to teachers who demonstrate that they meet those standards;

003.01C they have developed standards and assessments for at least ten separate endorsement areas, as identified in 92 NAC 24;

003.01D they are governed by a board of directors, the majority of whom were classroom teachers at the time they were elected to the board; and

003.01C they have clearly identified assessment procedures for the applicant which include the following:

003.01C1 documentation of practice through classroom observation;

003.01C2 videotape and other products developed by the teacher and his/her students;

003.01C3 structured interviews with trained interviewers;

003.01C4 simulation exercises completed at assessment centers approved by the credentialing organization; and

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003.01C5 examinations of subject matter and content specific instructional strategies.

003.02 Approval Process. Credentialing organizations meeting the criteria in 003.01 will be approved by the Commissioner on behalf of the Department. Applications for approval that are rejected by the Commissioner may be the subject of an appeal to the State Board of Education pursuant to 92 NAC 61.

004 Registration Award.

004.01 Registration Award. A teacher who applies to a credentialing organization for credentials required for master teacher status shall be eligible for a registration award to pay for application and registration fees associated with obtaining the credentials.

004.02 Partial Registration Award. To receive a partial registration award in the amount of one-half (1/2) of the associated fees, the teacher shall register with the Department within one (1) year of application to the credentialing organization by submitting the documentation required by Section 004.02A. Up to a maximum of forty (40) eligible teachers shall receive the first half of a registration award each year. The number of awards given will be at the discretion of the Commissioner based on the availability of funds.

004.02A Documentation. Documentation shall mean official notification from the credentialing organization of the receipt of an application and the registration fee required for participation in the recognition process.

004.03 Remaining Fee Award. To receive a final registration award in the amount of the remaining fees, the teacher shall notify the Department that the teacher received the credentials and shall submit documentation required by Section 004.03A.

004.03A Documentation. Documentation for the remaining half of the registration fee shall mean official notification from the credentialing organization that the applicant has successfully completed the assessment process and has been awarded the national recognition. The number of awards for the remaining half of the registration fee will be at the discretion of the Commissioner based on the availability of funds.

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004.04 Payment of Registration Awards. Payment of registration awards will be limited to the initial registration fee and will not be available for any supplemental application fees.

005 Master Teacher Status.

005.01 Funding. Each year Master Teacher Status may be granted to anyone who completes an application for a teaching certificate from the Department and has been awarded national recognition from an approved credentialing organization.

005.01A Application Process. In order to obtain Master Teacher status the applicant must provide the following items:

005.01A1 Official notification from the approved credentialing organization that the applicant has successfully completed the credentialing process;

005.01A2 A sworn affidavit that the applicant is eligible for a regular certificate in Nebraska; and/or

005.01A3 A current Nebraska certificate; and

005.01A4 A request that the applicant be issued a new certificate recognizing achievement of Master Teacher status.

005.02 Approval. Approval of Master Teacher Status shall be granted by the Commissioner when all of the requirements of 005.01A have been satisfied. A denial of Master Teacher Status may be appealed to the State Board of Education pursuant to 92 NAC 61.

005.03 Professional Teaching Certificate. Master Teacher Status will result in issuance of a Professional Teaching Certificate by the Commissioner which is valid for ten years beginning with the school year in which the Master Teacher Status was achieved.

005.04 Reapproval. Reapproval of Master Teacher Status shall be granted by the Commissioner when official notification of reapproval is granted by the approved credentialing organization and upon subsequent completion of the requirements of 005.01A.

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006 Annual Salary Bonus.

006.01 Annual Salary Bonus. In any year for which an appropriation is made for the program by the Legislature, each teacher in the program shall receive an annual salary bonus of five thousand dollars up to a statewide total of one million dollars. If the number of teachers qualifying for the bonus exceeds the number which the one million dollars (\$1,000,000) would fully fund at the five-thousand-dollar level, the bonuses shall be reduced such that each teacher in the program receives the same amount and the statewide total does not exceed one million dollars.

006.02 Application for Annual Salary Bonus. Master Teachers must apply annually for the salary bonus. The application shall include verification that the teacher is a full time employee in a Nebraska public or private accredited or approved school. Applications must be received by January 15th of each calendar year.

006.03 Allocation and Payment. The Commissioner shall allocate the annual salary bonus to each teacher in the program in March of each fiscal year. Payment of such annual salary bonus shall not exceed the life of the credential and shall be made only upon approval by the Commissioner of an application or upon reapproval each year after receiving the initial salary bonus. Payment will be made only after verifying that the Master Teacher is employed full-time in a Nebraska public or private accredited or approved school during that year. Denial of approval by the Commissioner may be subject to appeal to the State Board of Education under 92 NAC 61.